John Mello - WPB

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

DEC 1 2006

Mark Lonetto, Executive Director
The Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority
1645 Ferry Avenue,
Camden, New Jersey 08104

Dear Mr. Lonetto:

This is in regard to a request for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for the proposed improvements to the wastewater infrastructure of Gloucester City, Camden County, New Jersey. This project is being funded from the $1,301,000 Special Appropriation Grant No. XP98285501-0. ✓

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX). The grant recipient is responsible for making this approval and the supporting documents available at local repositories, and for advertising the decision in the local press to indicate the availability of the supporting documentation for public review.

Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;

- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address. Please note this CATEX will be available on EPA Region 2's website at http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Steinberg

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Thomas J. Kilcourse, Mayor (w/enclosure)

bcc: M. Hajducek, DEPP-WPB
M. Clark, DEPP-SPMMPB
J. Mello, DEPP-WPB
Y. Cardona, OPM-GCMB

ENCLOSURE

Gloucester City
Sewer System Upgrades
Camden County, New Jersey
Special Appropriation Grant No. XP98285501-0

Background

The Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority has identified several deficiencies regarding Gloucester City's sewer collection system. In order to protect human health and the environment, upgrades and maintenance of the system are needed to ensure proper operation.

Proposed Action

The City proposes the rehabilitation of five pumping stations, an infiltration/inflow study and a chemical feed system to reduce corrosion. The proposed project consists of:

- Klemm Avenue Pump Station improvements - new odor control system.
- High School Pump Station improvements - new gate valves, check valves and motor control system.
- Chestnut Street Pump Station improvements - new motor control system and new bar screen.
- King Street Pump Station improvements – upgrades to overhauling pumps, pump motors and electrical system.
- Goldy Drive Pump Station improvements – replacement of pumps, bar screen and motor control center.
- Gloucester Heights Infiltration and Inflow Removal Study.
- Installation of chemical addition system to neutralize corrosive compounds within the sewer system.

The improvements to the pumping stations and the chemical feed system will be constructed within the footprints of existing facilities.

Alternative Considered

In addition to the proposed action, the following alternative was evaluated and rejected for the reasons outlined.

Alternative 1: No action - This was rejected because further deterioration of the system will increase the chances of a variety of hazards occurring such as: collapse of pipes due to hydrogen sulfide[1] corrosion, raw sewer overflows due to pump station failures, and flooding due to infiltration/inflow.

Eligibility for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving "actions which are solely directed toward … minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities."

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.107(e), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; and will not provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

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[1] Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) is produced by bacteria that can be found in ground water and that use sulfur to produce H2S. H2S exists in environments with poor oxygen levels (e.g., deep wells, plumbing and sewage systems).